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Agenda item 5 (a)

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Ireland*, Japan, Norway**, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia**, Switzerland** and United States of America: draft resolution

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the guiding principles and coordinating mechanisms for providing emergency humanitarian assistance contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

Recalling other relevant Assembly resolutions, in particular its resolutions 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 A of 20 December 1994 and 50/57 of 12 December 1995, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/56 of 28 July 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ A/51/172-E/1996/77.

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to submit to the Council, at its substantive session of 1997, a comprehensive analytical report, including options, proposals and recommendations for a review and strengthening of all aspects of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance;

2. Calls upon the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to adopt clear work plans and timetables for the working groups established in the follow-up to Council resolution 1995/56 in order that the Secretary-General may have sufficient time to consider their recommendations;

3. Urges all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to actively participate in the follow-up process established for Council resolution 1995/56;

4. Also urges the governing bodies of the relevant agencies to complete their consideration of the follow-up to Council resolution 1995/56 in good time, no later than their first regular sessions of 1997, in order that the Secretary-General may have sufficient time to consider their recommendations;

5. Calls upon the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to provide a conference room paper on the status of Inter-Agency Standing Committee working group discussions prior to each board meeting of the agencies, funds and programmes at which the follow-up to resolution 1995/56 will be discussed so that board discussions can build on each other and the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

6. Encourages Governments to ensure coherence in the direction given to the governing bodies of relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system with the aim of improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance in the United Nations system;

7. Calls upon the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in this context, to continue to convene regular, informal and open-ended information meetings with member States, observer States and relevant intergovernmental and other organizations on the review of the above-mentioned issues so as to ensure that they are coherently addressed and appropriately reflected in the report of the Secretary-General.